



Docket No.: 20731 US (C38435/120940)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Akira ASAKURA *et al.*)

Serial No.: 09/938,035

) Examiner: Dr. Herbert J. LILLING

Filed: August 23, 2001

) Art Unit: 1651

For: **MICROBIAL PROCESS FOR
PRODUCING L-ASCORBIC ACID, D-
ERYTHORBIC ACID, AND SALTS
THEREOF**

)

)

New York, New York
September 3, 2003

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION INCLUDING AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box. 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 3, 2003. The Office Action set a three-month shortened statutory period for response. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed with an executed certificate of mailing on or before September 3, 2003. 37 CFR § 1.8. No fee is believed to be due. If it is determined that a fee is due, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 02-4467. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Application No.: 09/938,035
Amendment Dated: September 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action of: June 3, 2003

Please amend the application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION begin on page 3 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS begin on page 4 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS: none.

REMARKS begin on page 10 of this paper.